



THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

1230 YORK AVENUE • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

THE PRESIDENT

September 5, 1978

Mr. G.E. Dicker
Academic Registrar
The Australian National University
Post Office Box 4
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Mr. Dicker:

This refers to your letter of August 8, 1978.

The Rockefeller University does not, at this time, have a provision for fixed longer term appointments, such as you describe, in lieu of tenure, nor do we have a stated formal policy on early retirement. We do, however, have a long-standing tradition of dealing sympathetically with early retirement requests (for reasons of health or whatever) on a case by case basis, taking individual circumstances into consideration.

In recent years, to increase tenure opportunities (which have been severely limited by fiscal and spatial constraints) for those coming up through the ranks, and to enable expansion into new areas, early retirements have been actively encouraged as a publicized option. This has not been too successful, mainly because of the economic realities, as well as other satisfactions of continued employment in a prestigious setting.

Recent federal legislation extending the threshold for mandatory retirement from 65 to 70 years, will impel us to explore such alternatives as fixed longer term appointments and provisions for early retirement. We will be interested, therefore, in your own findings.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
President

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